

I have been unable to find anything of any interest recorded with regard to habits. Bates mentions that his Cameroon specimen had remains of some sort of squirrel in its stomach. My friend who sent me the specimen from eastern Pondoland, stated that this was one of a pair which had been chasing his tame pigeons. Judging by its proportions and likeness to *H. spilogaster*, I should think that, like that species, it was probably a highly predaceous species, preying on such birds and mammals as partridges, pigeons, hares, etc.

The distribution of this Eagle would appear to extend from Somaliland on the east and Togoland on the west, southwards probably as far as the Cunene River, on the west, then along the Zambezi, and through the eastern districts of South Africa as far as Port Elizabeth.

In concluding these notes I must ask to be forgiven if there is a lack of concise ideas, as I am no writer. I trust, however, that my words, and the accompanying plate, will lead to a better knowledge of this Eagle.

XI.—*Note on certain recently described Subspecies of Woodpeckers.* By H. C. ROBINSON, M.B.O.U., C.M.Z.S.

IN a recent number of this Journal (1918, pp. 107-109) Mr. C. Boden Kloss has described four additional subspecies of the Bay Woodpecker (*Micropternus brachyurus*) for which, however, in three cases no types have been designated, which is contrary to all modern practice.

As I have recently had access to the entire material on which these races are based and many additional skins, as well as to the important papers of Hesse* which were not available in the Malay Peninsula at the time Mr. Kloss wrote his paper, the following remarks may tend to elucidate matters.

* Berlin Mitt. Zool. Mus. vi. 1912, pp. 131-261.

Micropternus brachyurus williamsoni Kloss.

This race was founded on a single male which I have examined, and appears fairly distinct when compared with *M. b. brachyurus*. It must, however, if distinct, have an extremely limited range, as specimens from Mergui are almost typical *M. b. phaiiceps*, while others from Bangkok are very much nearer to *M. b. burmanicus* Godwin-Austen. In any event very much larger series are required before, in so variable and difficult a group as these Woodpeckers, the race can be regarded as in any way established, and its description is a courageous act which it is devoutly hoped will not be largely imitated.

Micropternus brachyurus lanka Kloss.

The type and only specimen examined is a much deteriorated specimen so damaged in the region of the head that the sex cannot be stated with certainty. It was collected in Ceylon, probably in the southern districts, by E. L. Layard about 1845, and is No. 278 D. A.S.B. in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India (late Indian Museum, Calcutta). From the material it is impossible to express any opinion on the validity or otherwise of the race.

Micropternus brachyurus brachyurus Blyth.

The actual types of this form are a male and female collected by E. Blyth in 1844 in the neighbourhood of Calcutta. Wing 115–121 mm.

Micropternus rufinotus Bp. described as from central Asia, but more probably from north-west India, is a synonym not of *M. b. phaiiceps* but of *M. b. blythii*, being a large-winged form.

Micropternus brachyurus humei Kloss.

This race, founded merely on Hume's remarks without the inspection of any specimens with presumably a type-locality of Rohilkund, which is coterminous with south-west Nepal, is almost certainly a pure synonym of the large-winged *M. b. blythii* (*vide* Hesse, Ornith. Monatsb. xix. 1911, p. 183).

Micropternus brachyurus mesos Kloss.

The type of this form, which I tentatively suggest may be a natural hybrid between *M. b. phaiiceps* and *M. b. gularis*, is a female from Kuttak, No. 277 F. A.S.B., in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India (Indian Museum, Calcutta). The tail bands are broad and distinct, the shafts of the inner primaries dark, and the centres of the throat-feathers dark. Wing 110 mm.

† **Chrysocolaptes strictus chersonesus** Kloss.

This form, on account of its extremely small size and isolated habitat, can be regarded as quite a good subspecies, but of *Ch. guttacristatus*, not of *Ch. strictus* from Java. Birds in which the females have the head spotted black and white in the one case, and in the other golden-yellow as in *Ch. strictus*, can hardly be maintained as races of the same species.

Though Singapore Island is mentioned first in the description, in view of the subspecific title, it is I think permissible to designate the other specimen examined as the type; this is a male from Si Karang, southern Johore, collected on the 1st of August, 1908, by H. C. Robinson and E. Seimund. Wing 148 mm. measured flat. Federated Malay States Museum No. 1940/08.

XII.—Some Notes on Oriental Woodpeckers and Barbets.

By E. C. STUART BAKER, M.B.O.U.

WHILST working out the Woodpeckers and Barbets in the collection of bird-skins collected by Mr. E. G. Herbert in Siam, I have taken the opportunity of going into the question of subspecies of the forms represented therein, and the following notes are the result of my investigations.

PICUS OCCIPITALIS.

I have been able to examine in the British Museum a series of seventy males and nearly as many females, which show that though there are certain differences between the birds